Obituaries: Drew C. Arena; David W. Ashman; Elizabeth J. 'Betty'

McCarthy; Minna K. Davidson; Roselyn A. Clancy

Sunday, September 19, 2010

Drew C. Arena DOJ, Phone Company Official

Drew C. Arena, 62, a ranking Justice Department lawyer who later became a vice president for the phone company Verizon, died Aug. 18 at a hospital in Boston, where he was being treated for lung cancer. He lived in the District.

Mr. Arena joined the Justice Department in the 1970s as an assistant U.S. attorney in Denver. He came to Washington in 1980 and was a counsel to the U.S. Senate during an investigation of the 1979 nuclear accident at the Three Mile Island power plant in Pennsylvania.

From 1982 to 1985, Mr. Arena served in the Foreign Service as legal adviser to the U.S. ambassador to Mexico. He later helped negotiate international counternarcotics treaties and worked on legal cases concerning the Medellin drug cartel in Colombia and Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

Mr. Arena was director of the Justice Department's Office of International Affairs from 1988 to 1992. From 1995 to 1999, he was in Brussels, where he established a Justice Department office and served as Attorney General Janet Reno's liaison to the European Union.

Mr. Arena retired from the Justice Department in 2000 to join Verizon, where he was vice president and associate general counsel. He supervised issues regarding cyber crime, privacy and security, corporate governance, infrastructure protection and emergency preparedeness. He retired this year.

Drew Charles Arena was born in Fair Lawn, N.J., and was a 1969 graduate of Princeton University, with a major in medieval history. He graduated from law school at the University of Colorado in 1972.

His marriage to Lynne Dominick ended in divorce.

Survivors include his wife of 27 years, Elise Pinkow Arena of Washington; two sons from his first marriage, Xander Arena of Phoenix and Dylan Arena of San Mateo, Calif.; a daughter from his second marriage, Sarah Arena of Washington; and three grandsons.

-- Matt Schudel

David W. Ashman Chief Petty Officer

David W. Ashman, 88, who retired from the Navy in 1965 as a chief petty officer and then spent many years at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, died Sept. 7 at Montgomery General Hospital in Olney. He had a pulmonary embolism.

Mr. Ashman joined the Navy in 1942 and served in the Pacific during World War II.

He became an electronics technician during his military career. After his military retirement, he worked for several defense contractors and then conducted research at the Applied Physics Lab from 1973 to 1992.

David Warren Ashman, a Silver Spring resident, was a native of Buffalo.

His first marriage, to Ellen Hinze, ended in divorce. His second wife, Mary Jo Young, died in March after 48 years of marriage.

A son from his first marriage, Richard Ashman, died in 1990.

Survivors include a daughter from his first marriage, Sharon Ashman-Besse of Colorado Springs; a stepdaughter, Cynthia J. "Janie" Curry of Hedgesville, W.Va; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

-- Adam Bernstein

Roselyn A. Clancy School Receptionist

Roselyn A. Clancy, 88, a receptionist for 18 years at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Montgomery County, died Sept. 10 at Montgomery General Hospital in Olney from complications of pneumonia.

Mrs. Clancy also worked for two years in the cafeteria at Our Lady of Good Counsel before retiring in 1985.

Roselyn Ann Rulli was born in Connellsville, Pa., and was one of 11 children of Peter Michael and Catherine Rulli.

She and her husband moved to the Washington area in 1951 and raised five children.

Mrs. Clancy was a parishioner at St. Catherine Laboure Catholic Church in Wheaton before she and her husband moved to Leisure World in Silver Spring in about 1994. Then she became a member of Our Lady of Grace in Silver Spring.

Her husband of 58 years, Charles E. Clancy, died in 2004. Their daughter, Maureen Clancy George, died in 2003.

Survivors include four sons, Dennis Clancy of Jackson, Wyo., Michael Clancy of Olney, Kevin Clancy of Eldersburg, Md., and Patrick Clancy of Rockville; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

-- Emma Brown

Minna K. Davidson Montgomery Budget, Policy Analyst

Minna K. Davidson, a staff analyst for the Montgomery County Council from the mid-1980s until her retirement in August, died Sept. 5 of metastatic breast cancer at her home in Rockville. She was 57.

Ms. Davidson analyzed budgets, policy and proposed legislation in a number of program areas, including personnel regulations, the building of Strathmore Hall and funding for arts and humanities.

Minna Kohn Davidson was born in Washington and grew up in Montgomery County. She graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in 1970. She received a bachelor's degree from Tufts University in 1973 and a master's degree in English from the University of Chicago.

Ms. Davidson had been passionate about dance since attending classes at what is now the Maryland Youth Ballet. In 1977, she received a master's of fine arts degree in modern dance and choreography from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and then spent several years teaching dance at colleges in Wisconsin and Michigan.

She returned to Montgomery with her husband in 1984. Ms. Davidson worked as the executive director for the Montgomery County Commission on the Arts and Humanities before joining the county council staff.

She was a member of Temple Emanuel in Kensington, where she served as the secretary of the board of trustees.

Survivors include her husband of 28 years, Craig Ludwig of Rockville, and their daughters Rachel Ludwig of Columbus, Ohio, and Melissa Ludwig of Rockville and Harrisonburg, Va.; her father, David S. Davidson of Bethesda; and a brother.

-- Emma Brown

Elizabeth J. "Betty" McCarthy Church and Garden Club Member

Elizabeth J. "Betty" McCarthy, 90, a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church and Ayr Hill Garden Club, both in Vienna, died Sept. 8 at Inova Fairfax Hospital of complications from a fall.

Elizabeth Jane Gilroy was born on a farm in Lost Nation, Iowa. She attended a one-room elementary school and was valedictorian of her high school class.

Mrs. McCarthy received a teaching certificate from what is now Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, which led to a teaching job in Big Rock, Iowa. Several years later, she moved to Chicago and was working at the manufacturer A.B. Dick, when she met her future husband, Paul K. McCarthy, at a dance.

They married in 1944 and soon moved to the Washington area for his government job. He died in 1992.

Survivors include four children, Joseph McCarthy, Patricia McCarthy and Mary Ellen McCarthy, all of Vienna, and Stephen of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; and a sister.

-- Emma Brown